

flowers. Even the "passer-by" shoppers were stopping to watch this phenomenon. At our local large town of Gaillac (population 10,500) *C. marshalli* was seen at a garden centre; however, it has travelled up the valley from Graddé (population 10) where it is established on wild *Geranium* spp. in our meadow about one kilometre up the lane from the garden. The species is native to extreme southern Africa. It was recorded for the first time in Europe from Palma, Mallorca in November 1989 (Eitshberger & Stamer, 1990. *Atalanta* **21**: 101-108) and was assumed to be an establishment resulting from initial introduction. It was also noted on Mallorca [as Majorca] the next year, 1990 (Rayner, 1990. *Ent. Rec.* **102**: 250). The following year it was reported from Belgium (Troukens, 1991. *Phegea* **19**: 129-131). According to Leraut (1997. *Liste Systématique et Synonymique des Lépidoptères de France, Belgique et Corse* 2nd edition), after having been first seen on Mallorca it has spread to mainland Spain and Italy; unpublished records to support this statement exists on the Internet as a photograph taken in Rome by P. Mazzei during 1996, and another taken by A. Torry at Gerona, Catalonia [Spain] in 1997. The year 1997 also saw the first "wild caught" adult in Britain (at Lewes, East Sussex by John Holloway (*Atropos* number 4, 3-6) although it doubtless originated from an introduction of larvae on imported plants. Shaw (2001. *Ent. Rec.* **113**: 262) considered that his observation of the species in Corsica on 4 August 2001 appeared to be the first record of the butterfly there. White (1998. *Ent. Rec.* **110**: 297) records *C. marshalli* as new to Portugal from the Algarve in May 1998 and White (2000. *Ent. Rec.* **112**: 179) notes that the butterfly was present on Granada as early as 1995. Foster (2000. *Ent. Rec.* **112**: 271) records it as new to Lanzarote in 2000. The early spread in Europe is documented by Sarto I Monteys (1992. *J. Res. Lep.* **31**: 24-34), whilst a more accessible summary (to British readers) was given by Honey (1993. *Butt. Cons. News.* **53**: 18-19).

Larsen (2000. *Ent. Rec.* **112**: 273-275) is of the opinion that the presence of the species in Spain and Southern France is the result of a "long range introduction", noting that it has even been found in Belgium and the UK, where it would probably be unable to survive on a permanent basis. Whilst migration from the extreme southern tip of Africa to Europe is unlikely, the evidence from Graddé and elsewhere may suggest that current waves are the result of phenomenal expansions of the new range of a species now established, and quite able to thrive on both wild and "domesticated" *Pelargonium* and *Geranium* species where available in conjunction with suitable climatic conditions.

However, the year 2002 will be a severe test. For the first time in ten years the winter temperature here has been maintained at a level below zero for a continuous month (lowest -12°C), although by the end of January 2002 we had, again, already seen the "February Five". We hope that the cycle will be completed again in August! – MICHAEL MARNEY, Graddé, 81140 Campagnac, France (E-mail: michael.marney@wanadoo.fr).

### ***Gelechia cuneatella* Douglas (Lep.: Gelechiidae), new to Lancashire**

On the night of 29 July 2001, Mr Kevin McCabe came across a gelechiid moth with which he was unfamiliar in his m.v. trap in Flixton, Greater Manchester (VC 59). He kindly passed it on to me for closer examination. Having set the moth, which was

very worn, I realised I also had not come across the species before and therefore prepared a genitalia slide. The structure of the male genitalia clearly indicated it to be a *Gelechia* sp. of some description and further further checks in both *Microlepidoptera of Europe* Vol. 3 (Huemer and Karsholt, 1999) and *Die Palpenmotten (Lepidoptera, Gelechiidae) Mitteleuropas* (Elsner, Huemer and Tokár, 1999) led me to believe the moth was *Gelechia cuneatella*.

Information from *A review of the Scarce and Threatened ethmiine, stathmopodine and gelechiid moths of Great Britain* by Mark Parsons and a talk with Dr John Langmaid suggested the moth had not been recorded in Britain since the 1950s and never before in the western half of the UK. I therefore took the slide and moth to the BENHS Annual Exhibition where Dr David Agassiz offered to check the identification for me. This he kindly did and also suggested I contact a Danish authority, Keld Gregerson, on this family to find out more about the habits of the moth. Information received from Keld suggested a more recent record from Britain existed. Based on this information John Langmaid found a reference of two being reared in 1975 in North Essex by Peter Follett (Emmet, 1981. *The Smaller Moths of Essex*).

Attempts will be made, based on all the available information, to find the larvae of *G. cuneatella* and further information will be published if it becomes available. I am grateful to David Agassiz, Keld Gregersen and John Langmaid for their help with respect to this article and to Kevin McCabe for allowing me to publish details of his record.—STEPHEN PALMER, 137 Lightfoot Lane, Fulwood, Preston, Lancashire PR4 0AH (E-mail s.palmer12@btopenworld.com).

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## THE MOTHS OF ESSEX – APPEAL FOR RECORDS

Due to be published towards the end of this year, this book will summarise the status and distribution of all Essex moths for the first time since the mid-1980s. It will include maps, flight-time graphs of common species, locally recorded larval foodplants and monochrome photographs of adults in natural resting posture. There is still time for extra records to be included. Could anyone holding records for either micro- or macrolepidoptera please contact me at the address below. A pre-publication offer (£16.50 plus post) for the book is included in this issue of the *Entomologist's Record*.—BRIAN GOODEY, 298 Ipswich Road, Colchester, Essex CO4 0ET (E-mail: brian.goodey@dial.pipex.com).